



7-1-1985

New Pacemaker Enables Bucky to Compete at Devon

Giardiasis

Giardia are protozoan parasites which are found worldwide. In the United States, *Giardia* accounts for the largest percentage of intestinal parasites found in humans. In dogs and cats, infection may not be detected unless a special technique is used—zinc sulfate centrifugal flotation is recommended (the sugar and salt solutions used routinely in many laboratories are often inadequate). Because affected animals may not shed cysts continually, repeated fecal examinations may be necessary for diagnosis.

The most prominent sign of *Giardia* infection is diarrhea which may be intermittent or chronic. Definitive diagnosis depends upon recovery of the organism. Several drugs are available for treatment. The majority of *Giardia* infections are believed to cause no signs of disease in their hosts.

The life cycle of *Giardia* is direct (no intermediate host is required). Transmission is by the fecal-oral route. Crowded, unsanitary conditions and drinking water contaminated with cysts favor spread of infection. There has been much publicity given outbreaks in humans traced to contamination of water with *Giardia* cysts.

Treatment of asymptomatic cyst passers (humans, dogs, cats, birds, etc.) is recommended because of the potential of the parasite to cause disease. Clinical giardiasis can appear in animals of any age, but animals less than one year old seem to be particularly susceptible.

A number of reports describe giardiasis as a "new" disease. As the condition receives more publicity, it is probable that it can be diagnosed more frequently. It's been with us for a long time. If found in companion animals, it should be treated, especially because there is the possibility of direct transmission to humans.



The Complete Dog Book

The 17th edition of the American Kennel Club's THE COMPLETE DOG BOOK has just been published. This book is intended to acquaint the public with the appearance and qualifications of each breed registered by the AKC, and guide owners in keeping their dogs healthy, happy and well-behaved.

The official breed standard and history of the 129 pure breeds presently recognized by the American Kennel Club are given, plus a photograph of each. In addition, there are 115

photographs of dogs at rest, work and play.

There are constant changes in the world of pure-bred dogs. Since the 16th edition of this book was published in 1979, Group VII, the Herding Group has been added, made up of 14 breeds previously shown in the Working Group. At the present time, there are 24 breeds or varieties shown in the Sporting Group I, 21 in the Hound Group II, 19 in the Working Group III, 24 in the Terrier Group IV, 17 in the Toy Group V, 13 in the Non-Sporting VI, and 14 in the Herding Group VII. For those who might check the addition, Poodles are represented in two groups, two Non-Sporting and one Toy, and there is a Manchester Terrier in the Terrier Group and in the Toy Group. There are varieties in other breeds. Cocker Spaniels, Bull Terriers and English Toy Spaniels are divided by color. Beagles, Manchester Terriers and Poodles by size, and Dachshunds and Chihuahuas by type of coat. If every breed and variety were present at a show, there would be 141 dogs representing the 129 breeds.

There is information about registration, dog shows, obedience trials, and junior showmanship. Charts and a glossary explain many terms, such as eat foot, hare foot and splay foot; level back, camel back, hollow back and roach back; squirrel tail, sickle tail and screw tail; colors such as Isabella (fawn or light bay), merle (blue-grey with flecks of black) and roan (a mixture of colored and white hairs—blue roan, orange roan, lemon roan, etc.). The answer to many more questions can be found.

A section on Training offers advice for the first-time dog owner as well as the veteran. It recommends that every dog know at least five basic commands: *heel, sit, down, stay* and *come*. Housebreaking techniques are given.

A section on the Healthy Dog gives basic veterinary information. The material was reviewed by faculty members of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. Topics covered include The Healthy Dog, Preventive Care, Administering Medicine, Nutrition and Feeding, and Reproduction and Breeding. Signs and symptoms of illness are covered and there is a section on First Aid which gives instructions about what to do in an emergency situation before you can reach a veterinarian.

THE COMPLETE DOG BOOK can be called the greatest single reference on dogs in print and should be in every dog owner's library. Although it covers only those breeds eligible for championship competition at dog shows held under American Kennel Club rules, anyone with an understanding

of all the information it contains is a "dog person" with a good basic education.

The book is published by Howell Book House and is available (\$16.95) at better book stores or from the publisher (230 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10169).



Hot Weather Notes

The increased incidence of rabies in wildlife makes it extremely important that dogs and cats are vaccinated. In 1984, there were 384 confirmed rabies cases in Pennsylvania—281 raccoons, 38 skunks, 35 bats, 8 foxes, 4 cats, 3 squirrels, 3 cows, 3 woodchucks, 2 dogs, 2 rabbits, 2 possums, 1 horse, 1 pony and 1 deer. There were two cases of human rabies in the United States in 1984, one of these in Pennsylvania. All dogs and cats should be vaccinated at three months of age, then one year later, then have a booster every two or three years (depending on type of vaccine used). Follow the advice of your veterinarian.

Fleas and ticks are a constant problem but always seem worse in the warm months. It is necessary to treat the environment and use insecticides to kill adults on the animal. New products have been developed to kill immature forms. Be sure to read instructions—some products are not safe for cats. Remember to be careful when removing ticks as you may dislodge the body and leave the feeding parts in the skin.

MOST IMPORTANT—An automobile with the windows closed can become a death trap in just a few minutes. Heat stroke occurs in hot and humid weather. The signs are staggering, collapse and even unconsciousness. Cool the animal immediately by soaking with water or packing with ice. Adequate ventilation and an ample supply of drinking water are needed to prevent trouble.

Heartworm is a nationwide problem. Medication to prevent infection must be given daily to prevent infection, particularly when the dog is exposed to mosquitoes.

"Hot Spots" are skin lesions which may occur when the dog scratches. Reddened, moist areas may appear overnight. There are numerous home remedies but your veterinarian can recommend a preparation to have available at the first sign of trouble. If the problem persists, the cause must be determined before an effective treatment can be prescribed.

New Pacemaker enables Bucky to compete at Devon

Bucky, the American Quarterhorse with a pacemaker (*Bellwether*, Summer 1984), competed in four classes in the Local Hunter Division at the Devon Horse Show in May. Bucky was able to participate because a new, more sophisticated pacemaker replaced the original device.

The horse, which has an arrhythmia caused by a heartblock, had been doing fine with the pacemaker implanted last year. His heart beat a steady 45 beats per minute and the animal was frisky and active. However, he could not be ridden nor could he jump as his heart rate could not increase beyond the 45 beats.

"A few weeks ago someone donated a more advanced pacemaker, one which can increase the heart rate as the patient exercises," said Dr. Virginia Reef, the veterinarian who implanted the

original pacemaker. "With the previous device, Bucky had one electrode implanted in the right ventricle. Now we have added another electrode which is placed in the tissue of the atrium. The two electrodes are connected and attached to a new pulse generator, one which responds to the demands made on the heart by exercise."

The new pacemaker enables Bucky's heart to beat up to 150 beats per minute, a rate needed for such activity as being ridden and jumping fences. "The horse can resume his career as a hunter," Dr. Reef said. "He is safe to ride and can be shown, however, he cannot be raced on the flat, that would require more than 150 beats per minute."

Bucky made his show debut at Devon and demonstrated to everyone that a tiny device, so common in human medicine, can also benefit the horse and prolong its life.

Bucky and Dr. Reef clearing a jump at the Devon Horse Show.

Alix Coleman photo

